

REMARKS

Claims 2-58 have been added, and therefore claims 1-58 are currently pending. No new matter has been added.

Claim 1 has been rejected under U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite on the grounds that it is unclear whether the term “control and/or monitor” is meant to connote “control and monitor” or “control or monitor”. As this term has been removed from claim 1 by amendment, it is submitted that the indefiniteness rejection has been obviated.

Claim 1 was rejected under U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Venkatraman et al., European Patent No. 0 838 768 A2 (“Venkatraman”).

To reject a claim under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), the Office must demonstrate that each and every claim feature is identically disclosed in a single prior art reference. See Scripps Clinic & Research Foundation v. Genentech, Inc., 18 U.S.P.Q.2d 1001, 1010 (Fed. Cir. 1991). The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. M.P.E.P. §2131.

Independent claim 1 recites a system for monitoring a environment comprising an Internet browser connectable to an extranet, an extranet located external to said environment and accessible via said Internet browser, a communications server located in said extranet and adapted to interconnect on demand with one of a series of connection gateways located in predetermined environments and a connection gateway located in said environment to serve a user interface for the control or monitoring of the operation of at least one service in said environment, wherein upon accessing a predetermined address by said Internet browser on said extranet, said communications server creates a new connection to a predetermined one of said connection gateways to control or monitor the operation of said service, with said connection gateway subsequently serving pages directly to said internet browser displaying the state of operation of said service.

The Venkatraman reference purportedly relates to embedding a web server in a device to serve as an HTML user interface for the device in which it is embedded. In Venkatraman, it is assumed that the gateway for serving the HTML interface *is already connected to the Internet*. In contrast to Venkatraman, the claimed invention calls for having a communications server *create a new connection* to a connection gateway for controlling or monitoring the operation of the services.

Moreover, Venkatraman discloses a user interface for a *device* whereas the claimed invention relates to a user interface for a *service*, in which the service may monitor or control

one or more devices on a plurality of networks. It is noted that this service need not expose actual controls or outputs of a particular device, but may aggregate the state of one or more devices before providing status information to the user.

One of the main benefits associated with the present invention is that it substantially enhances the remote monitoring capabilities of the user since the user can flexibly access a web site on an extranet and thereby establish a connection to a gateway associated with the monitored and/or controlled environment. It is submitted that these benefits are not provided by the techniques disclosed by Venkatraman.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that Venkatraman does not anticipate the features of claim 1.

As regards claims 2-31 and 46-57, they depend from claim 1 and are therefore also not anticipated by Venkatraman.

As independent claims 32, 34 and 58 recite features analogous to those of claim 1, it is submitted that they and their respective dependent claims 33, and 35-45 are also not anticipated by Venkatraman.

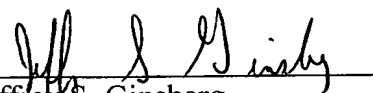
CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims 1-58 are in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

KENYON & KENYON

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By: 
Jeffrey S. Ginsberg
Reg. No. 36,148

One Broadway
New York, New York 10004
(212) 425-7200

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